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# Facts for NORTHEAST COMMITTEEMEN

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## ACTIVE FARMERS 'STEP UP' IN NORTHEAST PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Northeast AAA workers will be glad to join in welcoming Carl G. Wooster and Ralph Y. DeWolfe to new positions of responsibility in the administration of the program.

Mr. Wooster comes to Washington as the new assistant director of the Region. He is an active farmer, owning and operating a large farm at Union Hill, N.Y., which is devoted mainly to fruit production and dairying.

His response to the request for his assistance is made in the interest of the ideals and objectives of the AAA program, for which he has worked constantly since 1936. In assuming the heavy responsibilities of the assistant directorship, Mr. Wooster brings to the program a depth of insight gained in a lifetime of work with farm problems and organizations.

His successor as chairman of the New York State Agricultural Conservation Committee is Ralph Y. DeWolfe, active farmer of Oneida, N.Y. Both are splendid representatives of Northeast farmers, and we are glad of their increased participation in the program.

*A. W. Manchester*

A. W. Manchester.

## GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO NORTHEAST POINTS MEET FARMERS' REQUESTS

Movement of nearly 11 million bushels of corn out of the Middle West for storage in Buffalo, Albany and Ogdensburg, N.Y., Philadelphia, Pa., Weehawken, N.J., and other Eastern cities comes almost as a direct reply to the requests of Northeast dairymen expressed at the April defense conference of the AAA and Extension staff members in New York City.

At the conference, the dairy committee asked that "steps be taken to insure an adequate reserve supply of feed grains in the Northeast area for at least one month's needs, since the amount of livestock feeds stored in the Northeast is normally sufficient to meet the feed requirements for only 7 or 9 days."

In making the announcement of the shipment of corn to Eastern points, Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard declared that the shift in the supplies is part of an effort to maintain ample supplies of corn reserves in the Northeast to "meet all immediate needs."

Nearly half of the intended total -- about 5 million bushels -- is already in storage at Northeast points or in transit to such points. Movement of corn into the area, Secretary Wickard said, serves a threefold purpose. First, it assures feeders, dairymen, poultrymen, and consumers in the Northeastern territory of a reserve feed supply to guard against any transportation shortage which might develop; second, it will provide consumers in that area with corn at fairly stable price levels; and third, it will clear out space now occupied in the Middle West and needed for storage of the new wheat crop.

Tabulation of corn stored or in transit to Northeastern points is: Buffalo, 3,250,000 bushels stored or in transit, with boats contracted for an additional 2,500,000 bushels; Albany, 1,500,000 bushels in storage or in transit; Baltimore, 100,000 bushels stored or in transit. Plans call for more corn to be shipped to these and other eastern points.

The corn, intended as an emergency supply, may be purchased from the Commodity Credit Corporation only in carload lots. However, farmers may jointly order a car through the Chicago office of the CCC. Such purchasers must assume responsibility for apportionment on delivery of the car. Farmers may apply to the county AAA committee for advice in the placing of orders.

## WHEAT FARMERS OF NATION VOTE FOR MARKETING QUOTAS

Nearly complete unofficial returns in the national wheat marketing quota referendum for the 1941 crop indicate that wheat farmers of the nation have approved the quota with a favorable vote of 80.8 percent. Of the 505,207 votes tabulated, 408,091 were in favor of the quota and 97,116 opposed.

The percentage of favorable votes, well above the two-thirds required by law, is a distinct and democratic expression of the manner in which farmers wish to market their crop.

In the Northeast region, where wheat growing is not a major interest, New York, with a total vote of 1,864 gave the highest percentage of favorable votes -- 55. Pennsylvania with 5,373 votes counted, returned 2,350 or 43.7 percent in favor of the proposal. New Jersey cast 301 votes of which 106 or a percentage of 35.2 were favorable.



## BETTER HEALTH, LIVING STANDARDS PROPOSED FOR LOW-INCOME FARMERS

A plan which has a triple objective -- building health for the defense of America, making democracy more tangible for underprivileged farm groups, and the raising of the general level of farm living -- is now before State committees in the Northeast Region for approval or adoption before the national conference.

The suggested course of action, necessarily in a more or less general stage, was drafted recently by a special committee which met in Washington after a similar group at the regional conference in New York had indicated the course to be taken.

Impetus for the plan came from a number of sources. It has been known for some time that many less-prosperous farm families were existing on poorly balanced food diets, largely because the family budget would not allow improvement. But this fact was brought dramatically to the public mind with the reports of Army doctors examining young men called up under the Selective Service Act. Physical defects, caused in many cases by malnutrition, brought the rejection of around 40 percent of the men examined. Many of the men rejected came from low-income farm homes.

The response was quick. The Northeast regional conference committee on aid to low-income farms recommended at New York that "practices be included in the regular agricultural conservation program for this low-income group which would provide an opportunity for them to participate in a manner consistent with the purposes of the program." Practices such as production, preservation, and utilization of an adequate supply of protective foods were recommended.

The low-income farms committee also suggested that the regional director set up a committee to have further meetings and report findings to the States for approval. It was this group, composed of George D. Bailey of Vermont, Paul Putnam of Connecticut, James E. Walker of Pennsylvania, Jacob A. Blakeslee of New Jersey and Lacey Woodward of New York, who drafted the following report:

*"On any farm where the county committee determines that the living of the families on the farm may be improved by increasing the production of food for family living to a greater extent than by carrying out other practices, seeds, plants, fertilizer, and other materials or services may be furnished as conservation materials and services to be used for this purpose to the extent approved by the county committee. Materials and services needed to facilitate the keeping of livestock to produce milk, eggs, or meat, primarily for farm family consumption may be included. However, in any State where the State committee so desires, a cash payment may be made, if all or any part of such materials are furnished by the operator, equal to the deduction which would have been made from the farm payment had the AAA furnished such materials."*

These provisions would leave to county committeemen the determination of whether each individual is eligible to receive such assistance. This is believed wise because county committeemen would be best qualified to judge the circumstances of each case.

## ACREAGE INCREASES ANSWER FOOD-FOR-DEFENSE REQUESTS

The latest available estimate of the acreage planted to peas for processing is 383 thousand acres, an increase of about 13 percent over the previous year, according to Department vegetable committee reports. This is substantially the increase requested by the Secretary. Peas are the earliest of the processing crops planted and the only one on which definite acreage estimates are as yet available.

However, preliminary reports indicate that the Secretary's request for more plantings of tomatoes, corn, snap beans, and dry beans will be closely complied with by farmers who produce those crops. The response is "varied in different parts of the country, major increases occurring where labor and similar production obstacles are less serious, but the totals appear now likely to closely approximate those desired. The major threats to supply now are the effects of droughts and labor shortages for harvesting and processing which are already being felt."

The expected increase of \$2.75 to \$3 per ton in the contract price offered by tomato canners is not yet universal. It appears that some misunderstanding on the part of some canners, particularly on the borders of the canning area, remains to be cleared up. A survey of the prices offered by canners is now being made.

## VERMONT TAKES STOCK, IMPROVES COUNTY OFFICES

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and a program of any sort is only as strong as its individual administrative units.

For this reason, *Facts* would like to pass on for the consideration of county and State offices the methods by which AAA county and State staffs in Vermont have attempted to improve the effectiveness with which the county office brings home to the farmers the aims and operation of the program.

When the average farmer consults his county AAA office, he carries away an impression, based on a number of factors, any of which may influence their impression and affect his willingness to cooperate.

Realizing this, H. W. Soule, Vermont State executive assistant, prepared an appraisal sheet on the basis of which county office staffs were asked to "rate" their offices on specific points arranged under the headings of: (1) *Location* — ease with which it could be found, size in square feet, (2) *records and reports* — readiness with which material in question could be located, (3) *personnel* — friendliness, knowledge of position, etc., (4) *cleanliness* — to what extent the physical appearance of the office was inviting and orderly.

Vermont county staffs rated themselves, then members of the State office staff rated the counties. Mr. Soule reports a high degree of agreement on the part of the raters.

With the ratings at hand, members of the State Committee visited county offices and discussed means by which weak points revealed in the appraisal could be remedied. As a result, improvements were effected in several county offices of the State.

Undertaken in a cooperative spirit, the Vermont appraisal plan stands as a practical suggestion which other county and State offices may wish to adopt.